



May 2002

Home Health Agency Update



North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Health Facilities

Welcome to this edition of Home Health Agency Update, a newsletter published by the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Health Facilities. Administrators, please share this newsletter with your home health agency staff.

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OBQI Downtime

On April 17, changes were made to the labels of a handful of measures on the case mix reports and one measure of the case mix tally report. All of the changes were minor and were meant to increase the accuracy and clarity of the reports.

Another change to the OBQI case mix report was made to correct an error in the national reference means. It was discovered that the OBQI version of the case mix report was including all episodes whose end of care assessment fell within the requested date range rather than including only those episodes whose start and end of care assessments both fell within the date range. This affected the national reference means only. The facility level means are correct. The displayed national means were not strongly affected by this problem. The correct values for the national means were for the most part within 1 percent or less of the correct value. The only measure that was strongly affected was the average length of stay measure. The displayed mean value was approximately 44 days, when the true average is approximately 33 days. This problem was corrected April 25. Agencies are encouraged to re-request any OBQI case mix reports that were produced before this date if they are concerned about the accuracy of the data on the report.

Due to a challenge during the full data recalculation prior to the OBQI release, it will be necessary to do a recalculation of one of the prior OBQI months. During the time the recalculation is running, no data from that month (August 2001) will be available. So that users do not request and receive OBQM or OBQI reports with incomplete data, the



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CASPER reporting application will be modified for a short time so that OBQM and OBQI reports will not be available for requests. Users still will be able to view, download and print previously requested OBQM and OBQI reports during this time.

A message will be placed on the initial login screen explaining that the system will be unavailable while recalculations are in progress: "OBQM and OBQI reports are unavailable for new report requests while data recalculations are being conducted. Previously requested reports are still available for viewing, downloading or printing. The reports are expected to become available again on Monday, May 13." We anticipate the recalculations to be conducted the weekend of May 11, and 12, 2002.

Finally, an enhancement to the OBQM and OBQI calculations soon will be implemented that will integrate late and corrected assessment data into the calculations. Currently, OBQM/OBQI calculations are run on a two-month lag to give agencies the maximum time to get their assessments submitted while still providing timely information on the reports. Once a month has been calculated, it is never recalculated; thus, any late or corrected assessment information is not included in the OBQM/OBQI calculations. The new enhancement will be a stand-alone program to be run on the fourth Saturday of each month. This program will search for late and corrected assessments to adjust the calculated OBQM/OBQI data to take the new information into account.



Having problems requesting, viewing or printing the OBQM or OBQI reports through the new CASPER system? E-mail David McCowan at dmccowan@state.nd.us and he will assist you. Please include your name, agency name and telephone number in your e-mail request.



Correction to Data Specifications Related to M0840

An error has been fixed below in the description of the edit related to M0840. Previously, the description stated:

If M0100_ASSMT_REASON = 04, 05, 06, 07, or 09, then at least one item from M0840_ECR_medication through M0840_ECR_UNKNOWN must be equal to 1, and none of the items from M0840_ECR_MEDICATION through M0840_ECR_UNKNOWN may be blank. Message is: +276 – Inconsistent M0100/M0840 values: If M0100 = 04, 05, 06, 07, 09 then at least one item from M0840 must be checked. Also, all items in M0840 that are unchecked must be submitted as zero.

This text was incomplete because the edit applies only when neither M0830_EC_NONE nor M0830_EC_UNKNOWN is checked. The edit description was changed to state the following (changes are shown in bold):

If M0100_ASSMT_REASON = 04, 05, 06, 07, or 09 **and M0830_EC_NONE = 0 and M0830_EC_UNKNOWN = 0**, then at least one item from M0840_ECR_MEDICATION through M0840_ECR_UNKNOWN must be equal to 1, and none of the items from M0840_ECR_MEDICATION through M0840_ECR_UNKNOWN must be blank. Message is: +276 – **Inconsistent M0100/M0830/M0840 values: If M0100 = 04, 05, 06, 07, or 09 and M0830 item 1, 2, or 3 is checked, at least one M0840 item must be checked. Unchecked M0840 items must be submitted as zero.**



of Health, Division of Health Facilities. This training will be held in Bismarck at the State Capitol – Judicial Wing, Pioneer Room. More information about the workshop will be sent in the near future.

~ Author Unknown



Reminder

Websites and Telephone Numbers

- www.health.state.nd.us — Past and current HHA Update newsletters are available at this site.
- www.hcfa.gov/medicaid/oasis/oasishmp.htm —OASIS home page for storing and disseminating policy and technical information.
- www.hcfa.gov/medicare/hhmain.htm — Home health PPS billing questions.
- www.hcfa.gov/pubforms/transmit/R21SOM.pdf —Home health conditions of participation.
- To view the Feb. 22, 2002, satellite broadcast that introduced the Outcome Based Quality Improvement (OBQI) reports, you must register as an individual at <http://cms.distributedclassroom.org>. This webcast will be available until Oct. 31, 2002.
- Medicare Data Communication Network (MDCN):
1.800.905.2069
- HAVEN Help Desk: 1.877.201.4721



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